

NASA TECH BRIEF

Goddard Space Flight Center



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Computer System for Library Access

The problem:

The volume of materials stored and handled by many libraries has become so large that it is often inconvenient and time consuming to find and retrieve needed documents and information.

The solution:

A computerized system, the "Bibliographic Products Subsystem" combines computer hardware, software, files, and batch procedures to provide faster and expanded bibliographic services and products.

How it's done:

The program performs traditional file creation, maintenance, and output. The input, update, and output routines are designed as modules for device independence. MARC II compatible data records can be added, changed, or deleted in a bibliographic file at the word, subfield, tagged field, or record level. Whenever the system is used to extract a product, the appropriate records are created automatically. The system includes generated sort keys for arranging the output in product, collection, and filing sequences.

Book catalog types may be dictionary, divided, or a combination of both; but the recommended catalog

system is a two-section structure with authors and titles arranged by alphabet in one file and subjects arranged by alphabet in another. Catalog entries are arranged in alphabetical sequence according to the rules established by the Library of Congress. In general, filing is word by word and is based on the simplest possible arrangement to permit computer filing that is compatible, for the most part, with traditional library filing rules. Shelf lists are filed by call number. Title, subject, and/or content keyword indices are filed by keyword and then by title and/or call number.

Notes:

1. This program is written in COBOL and ASSEMBLER for the IBM 360/370 computer.
2. Inquiries concerning this program should be directed to:

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